

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please add the following new paragraph after the paragraph on page 4 ending with "...the desired therapeutic application." at line 10 :

Embodiments of the present invention provide a process for preventing a decrease in a loading gradient (e.g., a loading efficiency gradient) in the loading of an oligosaccharide into the platelets comprising providing platelets having a first phase transition temperature range and a second phase transition temperature range which is greater than the first phase transition temperature, disposing the platelets into an oligosaccharide solution to commence loading (e.g., by fluid phase endocytosis) an oligosaccharide into the platelets, heating the oligosaccharide solution to the second phase transition temperature range to increase the loading efficiency of oligosaccharide into the platelets, and maintaining a positive gradient of loading efficiency to concentration of the oligosaccharide in the oligosaccharide solution for preventing a decrease in a loading gradient in the loading of the oligosaccharide into the platelets. The preventing a decrease in a loading gradient in the loading of the oligosaccharide into the platelets additionally comprises maintaining a concentration of the oligosaccharide in the oligosaccharide solution below about 50 mM. Loading the platelets with an oligosaccharide includes loading with a loading efficiency ranging from about 45% to about 50 % for the oligosaccharide solution having an oligosaccharide concentration ranging from about 20 mM to about 30 mM.